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complex is after all a figment of the imagination, but when you get out a chemical compound, extracted, purified and identified, you have hold of something tangible and when you put it back into the patient you can regulate the dose and record the reaction.

Physiologists now lay many bodily disorders, as capitalists do industrial disorders, to the pernicious activity of "agitators." The physiologist, since he prefers to talk Greek, calls them "hormones," but the word means the same. At least a half dozen of these hormones are already known. They are marketed among the four hundred by-products of our packing houses. Two of them, thyroxin and adrenalin, are definite chemical compounds and can be made synthetically. Soon the chemist will capture them all and possibly he may make stronger and better ones than the glands turn out in their old-fashioned way. There may be giants on the earth in those days, such as Wells foretold in "The Food of the Gods."

These hormones determine our temper and our temperament. They decide whether we shall be tall or short, thick or thin, stupid or clever. They mold our features and control our characters. A minute amount of certain secretions will make one more masculine or feminine, older or younger.

But until the chemist can manufacture them in the laboratory and we can carry them in a vest pocket case, we are dependent upon more or less active and impure extracts from the glands to supply our functional deficiencies. Or—and this is the latest sensation of the hour—we may be grafted with a gland from some animal. Unfortunately, the glands of the lower animals do not set well in the human system. Those of the apes work best, which goes to prove that they are blood relations of ours, Mr. Bryan to the contrary not-

withstanding. In any case the relief is not likely to last long, for the borrowed gland may succumb to the same influences that invalidated the natural organ.

In spite of the startling experiments of Voronoff and Steinach on the rejuvenation of rats and sheep, science is not yet in a position to meet the old demand for an elixir of life. Dr. Brown-Sequard, of Paris, who thought thirty years ago that he had found something of the sort in an extract of goat glands, did not live long enough to demonstrate his discovery. The rich old man, who went to Vienna to regain his youth and came to London to prove the success of Steinach's operation, died on the eve of his lecture on "How I was made twenty years younger." But there will be plenty of people eager to try the new methods, urged by the same motive that drove Ponce de Leon to seek the fountain of immortal youth in the vicinity of Palm Beach.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Alfred Goldsborough Mayor, director of the department of marine biology of the Carnegie Institution; of James McMahon, emeritus professor of mathematics at Cornell University; of Dr. Edward Hall Nichols, professor of clinical surgery in the Harvard Medical School; of Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, of the University of Cambridge, known for his work in anthropology and psychology; of Prince Albert de Monaco, distinguished for his oceanographic studies; and of Professor Edmund Weil, who died from typhus contracted by infection in his laboratory at Lemberg.

THE John Fritz medal has been presented by the board representing the leading engineering societies to Senator Guglielmo Marconi. The medal is presented for achievement in applied science as a memorial to

John Fritz, who was the first recipient. Other recipients of the medal have been Lord Kelvin, George Westinghouse, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Alva Edison, Charles T. Porter, Alfred Noble, Sir William Henry White, Robert W. Hunt, John Edison Sweet, James Douglas, Elihu Thomson, Henry Marion Howe, J. Waldo Smith, George W. Goethals and Orville Wright.

DR. GEORGE ELLERY HALE, director of the Mount Wilson Observatory and chairman of the National Research Council, has been appointed a member of the Committee on Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations, which was recently formed to promote research throughout the world and to facilitate the interchange of scientific information. Other scientific members of the committee are Professor Einstein and Mme. Curie.

THE American Museum of Natural History has had its endowment largely increased through contributions from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., George F. Baker, and the settlement of the estate of Amos F. Eno. The Rockefeller gift of \$1,000,000 will

make it possible for the museum to carry on its educational work throughout the city without impairing funds needed for scientific research. Mr. Baker's gift of \$200,000 supplements a recent one of \$100,000.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made to supply Russian men of science with the results of American scientific work accomplished since 1914. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Vernon Kellogg, secretary of the National Research Council, an American Committee to Aid Russian Scientists with Scientific Literature has been organized. Other members of the committee are Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture, Dr. David White, chief geologist, U. S. Geological Survey, and Dr. Raphael Zon, chief, forest investigations, U. S. Forest Service. This committee has arranged with the American Relief Administration to receive contributions of scientific literature at New York and transport them to Russia. It is a voluntary and temporary organization with headquarters at 1701 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C.